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A child's number tag (left) and passport (right) from the Kindertransport rescue.

## Josephine Butler

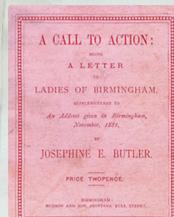


Josephine Butler portrait, 1851.

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## Sue Ryder

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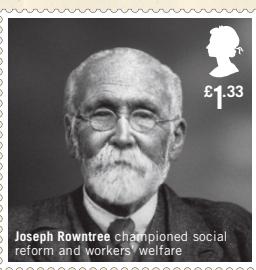
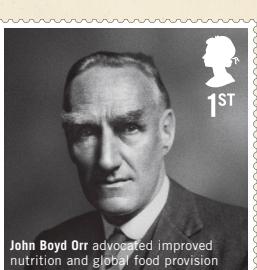
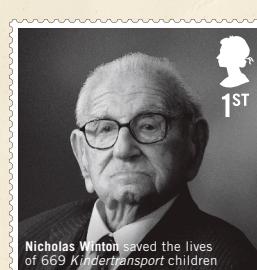
Sue Ryder in 1947.

camp survivors, the displaced, the orphaned and the unjustly punished, and what began in Europe would become, throughout the rest of the 20th century, a global campaign. In 1953, she established the Sue Ryder Foundation - other organisations would later follow - and more than 80 homes for those suffering from physical or mental problems would be set up worldwide.

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# British Humanitarians



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## Joseph Rowntree



Born into a prosperous and distinguished Quaker family in York, Joseph Rowntree was educated at Bootham School before starting a six-year apprenticeship at his father's grocery store in 1852. After building up valuable business experience over the next few years, in 1869 he became a partner in his younger brother's confectionery company where he helped to transform both the firm's fortunes and, perhaps most significantly, the well-being of its employees, with the introduction of welfare programmes, medical services, pension schemes and sick benefits for the workforce.

"Healthful conditions are not luxuries to be adopted or disposed of at will," he proclaimed. "They are conditions necessary for success."



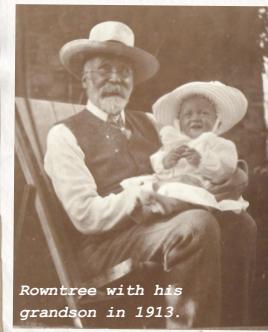
Residents of the garden village of New Earswick in York gather together for a gala, c.1907/8.

But he also identified one remorseless enemy – "selfish and unscrupulous wealth". Concerned that he was in possession of too much money, in 1904 he used half of his wealth to set up three trusts: the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust was created to give support to social research, adult education and the Society of Friends; the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust Ltd focused on social and political activities outside the

strict definition of charitable work; and the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust had responsibility for building respectable but affordable housing for the working classes in the garden village of New Earswick in York and elsewhere.

The Quaker philanthropist rejected emotional responses to social crises. That there was poverty was obvious, Rowntree reasoned, but he wanted to identify the causes of such evils – and how they could be eliminated. There would ultimately be four trusts, and their work, born in Edwardian

England, resonate across time and space, far beyond Rowntree's home city, and continue to this day. Adult education, research into social change, progressive housing – both in theory and, at New Earswick, in practice – became just part of the long and far-reaching legacy of Joseph Rowntree and his family.



Rowntree with his grandson in 1913.

## Eglantyne Jebb

In May 1919, at the City of London Magistrates' Court, Eglantyne Jebb and Barbara Ayrton Gould went on trial for staging a protest highlighting the plight of children in post-war Europe. They had given out leaflets in London's Trafalgar Square featuring photographs of malnourished children with an accompanying text blaming the Allied blockade for the needless starvation of innocents. The First World War had ended in November 1918, but the enforced blockade continued, with devastating effects, into 1919.

The two defendants were found guilty of the unauthorised distribution of the controversial material and fined £5 each – but the publicity was vital. Days later the 'Save the Children Fund', conceived by Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton, was launched in London. Jebb would become its honorary secretary and vice-president of Save the Children's international arm. In the ensuing century, Save the Children evolved into the world's largest independent organisation for children.

Activist and writer, Jebb was born in Ellesmere in Shropshire, the fourth child of a socially committed country landowner and his wife.

Save the Children Fund pin badge.



Above: Eglantyne Jebb at work in her office, c.1921.



Above: A copy of the Declaration of Geneva, 1924.



A still from Save the Children's film, 'Famine in Russia (1921)'.

Home-schooled, Jebb went on to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, leaving in 1898 with the equivalent of second-class honours in Modern History – female students were denied university degrees. She took a teacher-training course (but ill health curtailed her teaching career), studied economics, became a social worker and, in 1908, produced a sociological study of Cambridge. By 1913, Jebb was confronting the horrors of the Balkan war as a relief worker and investigator in Macedonia.

*"Surely it is impossible for us, as normal human beings, to watch children starve to death without making an effort to save them."*

As part of her work at Save the Children, in the early 1920s Jebb drafted the 'Declaration of the Rights of the Child', a document that was brought before the League of Nations' Assembly in September 1924, with a strong recommendation that "we should claim certain rights for the children and labour for their universal recognition". Unanimously adopted by the League of Nations (and known as the Declaration of Geneva), it was one of Save the Children's first breakthroughs in improving the lives of children across the globe, and it remains a humanitarian benchmark to this day.

## John Boyd Orr

In 1945, as the first director-general of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the physiological nutritionist Sir John Boyd Orr urged the creation of a new body which would both fund worldwide development of agriculture and ensure food supplies to developing countries. Charity and love are essentials for a "great soul", he would write later, but so too were "vision, courage and a willingness to sacrifice oneself".

Boyd Orr's life exemplified those ideals, and in 1949 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and also created a baron.

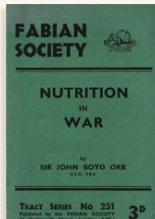
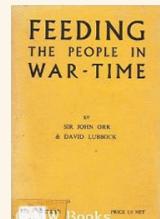
The son of a quarry owner and his wife, both devout Christians, the Scotsman's career took him from the tranquility of Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, through Kilmarnock Academy, to spells as a teacher and degrees from Glasgow University. By 1914, he was director of an institute of animal nutrition based at the University of Aberdeen (that later became known as the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health), which he would transform following his war service. On the Western Front, Dr Boyd Orr was decorated for gallantry while serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Sherwood Foresters.



John Boyd Orr in 1949.



Boyd Orr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949.



Boyd Orr wrote extensively on the subject of nutrition and food supply.

*"World peace must be based on world plenty"*

By the time of the 1918 Armistice, in a land exhausted by conflict, he was examining food resources for the Royal Society. Between the wars his work ranged across the world, while he advised – and clashed with – the government, evangelising for the poor and the virtues of milk for children. In 1946, in an attempt to address the post-war food crisis, he established an International Emergency Food Council, with 34 member nations signed up within the first year. Though he left the FAO in 1948, his commitment to the struggle remained undiminished.

As the Cold War deepened, Baron Boyd Orr Brechin urged its protagonists to agree on the "common cause" of providing "sufficient food for all mankind". This could, he argued, shift society towards "the evolution of a new civilisation, free from poverty with its intolerable evils of hunger, disease and resulting social unrest".



Charcoal sketch of Boyd Orr by Andrew Freeth, 1954.



The Boyd Orr Building at Glasgow University opened in 1972.

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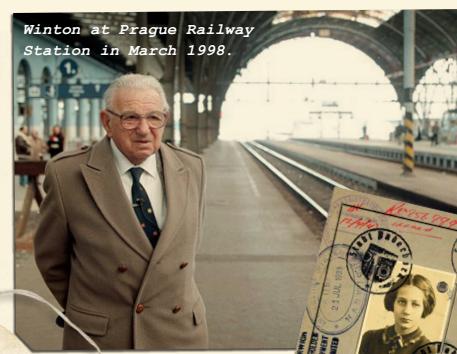
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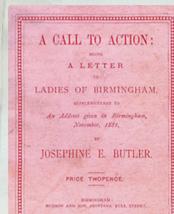


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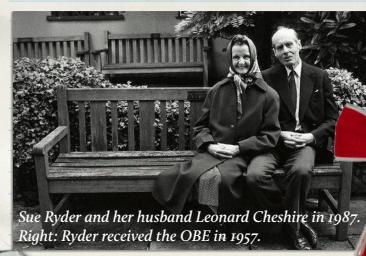


Sue Ryder in 1947.

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Sue Ryder and her husband Leonard Cheshire in 1987. Right: Ryder received the OBE in 1957.

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West Hampstead, London

Died: 1 July 2015,  
Wexham, Buckinghamshire

Sue Ryder  
Born: 3 July 1924,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire

Died: 2 November 2000,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

John Boyd Orr  
Born: 23 September 1880,  
Kilmarnock, Ayrshire

Died: 25 June 1971,  
Edzell, Angus

Eglantyne Jebb  
Born: 25 August 1876,  
Ellesmere, Shropshire

Died: 17 December 1928,  
Geneva, Switzerland

Joseph Rowntree  
Born: 24 May 1836,  
York, North Yorkshire

Died: 24 February 1925,  
York, North Yorkshire

Josephine Butler  
Born: 13 April 1828,  
Milfield, Northumberland

Died: 30 December 1906,  
Weeley, Northumberland